



COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 **QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: To ask the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

Ref: Youth Affairs, CSD Annual Report 2020–21, pp. 51, 97

In relation to: Youth Employment

1. According to the Annual Report, the ACT Youth Assembly chose to discuss youth employment (p. 51) – a topic that is frequently brought up in the Youth Assembly and by the Youth Advisory Council. In summary, what were the employment concerns raised by participants at the Youth Assembly?
2. What were their recommendations to government, if any?
3. Within the Office for Youth Engagement, who is responsible for communicating these concerns/recommendations regarding youth employment to other government areas that have the capacity to act on them, and which government area or areas have they been shared with?
4. What is the follow-up process?
5. When can we expect to see policy initiatives in response to these concerns/recommendations, and how will they be communicated back to the Youth Assembly participants and/or the Youth Advisory Council?
6. Regarding the Youth Interchange Program mentioned on p. 97 of the Annual Report, what is its annual capacity, how is it advertised to young people, how many young people have sought entry, and how are participants selected to participate?

MINISTER BERRY- The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. On 25 June 2021, the ACT Government partnered with the ACT Youth Advisory Council to host the 2021 ACT Youth Assembly (the Assembly). One of the topics considered at the Assembly was Youth Employment.

The Youth Employment forum aimed to improve, promote, and advocate for fair and respectful employment opportunities and conditions for young workers in the ACT. This forum aimed to identify key issues that affect young people when looking for, or during employment, and establish effective strategies and avenues young people can utilise when facing any of these issues.

A full summary of the issues and concerns raised during the forum will be available in the 2021 ACT Youth Assembly Report (the Report), when it is publicly released in June 2022.

2. The Youth Advisory Council prepared a Report capturing discussions and recommendations from the Assembly for the ACT Government to consider. The ACT Government will publicly release the Report, along with the ACT Government's response to the Report and its recommendations in June 2022.
3. The Community Services Directorate (CSD) shared the Report with all ACT Government directorates. All ACT Government directorates will contribute to the ACT Government's response to the Report.
4. The ACT Government will publicly release its response to the Report and its recommendations in June 2022. In accordance with previous years, the ACT Government's response will identify whether recommendations are agreed, agreed in principle, or noted, and will include details on the implementation of agreed recommendations.
5. The ACT Government's response to the Report, which will identify actions in response to agreed recommendations, will be published in June 2022. CSD will work with the Youth Advisory Council to disseminate information on the Report and the ACT Government response to the Report.
6. The Youth Interchange Programs are delivered by Housing ACT. Due to COVID-19 and connected risks to our cohorts no Youth Interchange Programs have been run yet in this financial year. Once identified risks are no longer present, the annual capacity is around 12 programs per year (one per month).

Programmed Facilities Management (Programmed) advertises the Youth Interchange Program through already established networks, which include Job Network providers, the Education Directorate and Community Organisations.

Due to COVID-19, the programs have not been running, however the Program's Social Inclusion Manager continues to strengthen partnerships to identify participants for the programs. The programs usually have around 10 participants so there is the potential for 120 participants per year to be able to attend.

All participants are required to be connected or referred through either the Education Directorate, a Community Organisation or a Job Network provider that can provide funding for the program. The Program's Social Inclusion Manager and the Manager of Apprenticeship Careers Australia provide information sessions for potential participants to inform and identify participants interests in different trades. This also helps to identify potential employers that may employ the participants on the Housing ACT TFM contract at the end of the program.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date:

16/08/22

By the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Yvette Berry MLA